

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1127
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 03781

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ILO, ELAB
SUBJECT: HOROWITZ MEXICO VISIT

REF: STATE 49411

1. HOROWITZ ACCCOMPANIED BY CHARGE THOMPSON MET WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY ROEL AND LABOR SECRETARY OJEDA (THE LATTER AT LUNCHEON OFFERED BY OJEDA) MARCH 23. SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS (ACCOMPANIED BY LABATT) WERE HELD WITH GOM, EMPLOYER AND WORKER DELEGATES TO ILO. IN EACH MEETING HOROWITZ OUTLINED THE FOUR BASIC REASONS FOR USG 1975 LETTER OF INTENTION TO WITHDRAW FROM ILO, OUTLINED SIGNS OF PROGRESS SINCE THAT NOTIFICATION AND REAFFIRMED USG INTENTION TO WITHDRAW IF AT END OF TWO YEAR PERIOD, WE JUDGE INSUFFICIENT PROGRESS HAS BEEN EFFECTED.

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2. BOTH ROEL AND OJEDA EXPRESSED GENERAL SYMPATHY WITH OUR EFFORT TO RETURN THE ORGANIZATION TO ITS BASIC PRINCIPLES. PUTTING APPROACH IN CONTEXT OF GOM'S PRESENT DESIRE TO IMPROVE U.S.-MEXICAN RELATIONS, ROEL STATED HIS INTENTION TO TAKE THE ILO MATTER DIRECTLY TO PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO. OJEDA INDICATED HIS INTENTION TO DISCUSS

THE PROBLEM WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY IN THE COURSE OF
DEVELOPING THEIR ILO POLICY.

3. REACTION FROM GOM-ILO DELEGATE AMBASSADOR CASTRO Y CASTRO, WHO OF COURSE IS MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE ON ILO MATTERS THAN EITHER OF THE SECRETARIES, LEFT LESS CAUSE FOR OPTIMISM THAT MEXICAN DECISIONS ON ILO ISSUES WILL DIVERGE FROM THE INFLUENCE OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRY BLOC. WHILE EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR THE U.S. EFFORT HE SPICED THE DISCUSSIONS WITH REMINDERS THAT MEXICO IS STILL A DEVELOPING COUNTRY WITH INTERESTS COMMON TO THOSE OF THE GROUP OF 77. ("I AM A MEXICAN FIRST BUT A SEVENTY-SEVEN, SECOND.")

4. EMPLOYER REP. YLLANES WAS MOST COOPERATIVE AND SYMPATHETIC BUT LESS CONCERNED THAT A PROBLEM STILL EXISTS. HE PROMISED HIS COOPERATION IN PUSHING THE U.S. POSITION BEFORE THE GOM. WORKER REP. SANCHEZ MADARIAGA REGISTERED SOME CRITICISM OF THE TACTICS OF THE 77 BLOC AND PARTICULAR CONTEMPT FOR THE "GAMES" OF THE AFRICANS.

5. WE ARE IN PROCESS OF PREPARING AIDE MEMOIRE COVERING HOROWITZ PRESENTATION TO FOREIGN SECRETARY ROEL, WHICH HE REQUESTED.

6. COMMENT: WHILE NO COMMITMENTS WERE SOUGHT OR GIVEN IN ANY OF THE VISITS, WE FEEL THE EFFORT WAS PRODUCTIVE AS A DEMONSTRATION OF HIGH LEVEL USG CONCERN OVER THE PROBLEM, THE REAFFIRMATION OF OUR POSITION SINCE THE CONFIDENTIAL

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CHANGE OF USG ADMINISTRATION, AND, PARTICULARLY IN THE CASE OF SECRETARIES ROEL AND OJEDA, A VERY EFFECTIVE EFFORT OF EDUCATING THEM ON A PROBLEM ON WHICH THEY HAD LITTLE PREVIOUS BACKGROUND.

7. WE ARE NOT UNDULY CONCERNED WITH CASTRO Y CASTRO'S REMINDERS OF MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE. HE WILL OF COURSE FOLLOW THE LINE ESTABLISHED BY THE GOM WHICH AT THIS POINT IS ONE OF INCREASED COOPERATION IN MOST FIELDS. EMPLOYER REP. YLLANES, WHO IS OPENLY SYMPATHETIC TO OUR POSITION, MADE REMARKS WHICH INDICATE THAT CASTRO Y CASTRO IS IN MORE ACCORD WITH THE U.S. CAUSE THAN HIS BARKS WOULD INDICATE.

8. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS WITH CHARGE, FONSEC ROEL SAID HE HAD BEEN VERY IMPRESSED WITH HOROWITZ AND WITH HIS PRESENTATION. THOMPSON.

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